



the **RaRa Rag**

Published by

ROCHESTER AMATEUR RADIO ASSOCIATION, INC.

VOL. 60

JANUARY, 2008

NO. 5

A Christmas wish comes true...

Dear Santa,

You know how much I love Ham Radio. I just can't seem to find the time to use my radios as much as I would like. I wish I could operate more without being tied to the shack. When I'm home, I want to spend time with the family, and my hectic schedule has me driving all over the place. Please help!

Your loyal public servant,

Sparky

Dear Sparky,

I usually don't answer letters personally, but you and your fellow Hams have indeed been loyal public servants. You're always ready to lend a helping hand in time of need, so I feel compelled to make this exception. I think I have just what you want.

Now, what if you could chat around the world on your VHF/UHF mobile or hand held? Wouldn't it be nice to check into the 80 meter NET from the comfort of your living room sofa? Or my personal favorite: Take the wife and kids to the mall, and while they're off shopping, you could park yourself at the coffee kiosk, grab a warm drink and work some HF DX!

RaRa Regular Meeting

January 4, 2008

7:30 P.M.

**Henrietta Fire Company #1
3129 East Henrietta Rd**

"On the air from anywhere"

By Jim Stefano, W2COP

A few years ago, I got Rudolph a new Garmin StreetPilot GPS with turn-by-turn guidance and now I don't even have to steer the sleigh. That gives me a few minutes in between my stops to get on the air! I figured I'd let the Reindeer drive while I work on my DXCC. That's when I learned about antenna restrictions. I wanted to put a HamStick on the sleigh, but Mrs. Clause said it "spoiled the appearance". She's a real stickler for tradition and all that.

By now you should be thinking: "How do you get on the air without an antenna?" Well, I would love to show you how it's done but my schedule is just too busy to make a personal appearance. I'm even busier this year because lots of the toys need to be repainted. I won't name names but, one of my elves hired a sub-contractor that used lead based paint... I don't know what they were thinking! No more overseas outsourcing for me! Fortunately, I have a very special colleague in your area that can fill in for me. Jim Stefano, W2COP, is my personal advisor on all things RF. I'm going to dispatch him to the next RaRa meeting on January 4th. There he will show you how you can do it too. It's very high tech, with just a little "Santa Magic". Ho, Ho, Ho! Truth be told, it's really very easy and Jim will show you everything you need to know to: "Get on the air from virtually anywhere!"

Be good, and play nice!

73's,

Santa

January, 4th 2008 RaRa General Meeting:
"Get on the air from anywhere." By W2COP,
Jim Stefano

**RaRa Hotline
NEW NUMBER
(585) 671-2424
24 Hours a Day**

the RaRa Rag

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The Prez Sez

By Jim DiTucci, N2IXD
President, RARA

Almost two years ago, then RaRa president, Bill Kasperkoski, WB2SXY, coined the phrase "Meet Your Friends at RaRa." Bill's hopes were that RaRa could be the focal point of Ham Radio in our community and foster recognition of the fact that many of us have formed solid friendships through participation in RaRa. When you think about it, where else could you find active and retired individuals from all walks of life who come together on a regular basis. We have sales reps, teachers, EMT's, lawyers, policemen, active and retired military, engineers, high school and college students, farmers, doctors, authors, school bus drivers, computer geeks of every variety... and the list could go on to fill the pages of The RaRa Rag.

So this month I would like to share with you excerpts of an on-going exchange with a friend of RaRa living in a distant place. No, it was not a CW rag-chew on 15-meters. However the message is no less important: Ham Radio friendships transcend time and distance and transcend the synapses of memory.

From: George Harding ZL3KD

zl3kd@xtra.co.nz

Date: Nov 24, 2007 10:18 AM

Subject: Seasons Greetings from ZL
To: Jim DiTucci

Hi Jim and season's greetings to you and yours at R.A.R.A. I have been cleaning out the shack and found the log book I kept while studying with Harris RF in University Avenue in September and October 1977. I was the project engineer for the purchase of a suite of HF SSB equipment for the Royal New Zealand Air Force and with two technicians spent seven very happy weeks in Rochester staying in an apartment block in North Goodman where one apartment had been changed into a classroom for us to learn the installation and maintenance procedures.

I had arranged for a Ham License through the US Embassy in Wellington and on day two of our stay I purchased a Heath Kit 2m rig I saw advertised in the local paper. While testing it at the vendor's home he suggested I call, "ZL2AON listening on 88". There was a short silence then a comment; "did you hear what I just heard?" Reply, "yes, but I don't believe it". I apologised and added "portable W2" to my call sign.

That was the start of seven weeks of ham radio fun and fellowship the likes of which I had never had before and probably never experience again. As our lessons finished at 16:00 each day I was on the air from that time on until the "Champagne Net" closed about midnight and became a relay point for phone calls from mobiles stuck in the traffic snarl ups caused by the snow, to the XYL's saying, "I will be home late for dinner" etc. Then there were the invitations to the Friday night meetings at one of Rochester's Ham Clubs inevitably followed by a meal at our favourite eateries Perkins Cake & Steak, (ahhh, those pancakes!!!!) from where, despite the best efforts of the waiting staff, a menu was purloined for me one night and autographed by Jerry Novick WB2QKB, Chris Johnson WB2RJL, Bill Gillette WB2KIW, his XYL Barb Gillette and Mike Wengert KOONG. During my last week in Rochester the RARA members hosted a dinner for me and presented me with a Ringo Ranger antenna which I donated to our local repeater while I was on secondment to the Australian Air Force in 1979/80 and sad to say was irreparably damaged during a storm.

After 30 years the wonderful memories still remain and my photos of 2 metre long icicles hanging from the eaves of the house across from me still cause questions of "are they real?" when I show them to friends. My other lasting memory is the fellowship I enjoyed at Third Presbyterian Church in Meigs Street where again I was welcomed into their 'family', their homes and Sunday lunches at one of the Asian restaurants Rochester had many of.

Please extend my heartfelt thanks and Christmas greetings to the RARA membership for an unforgettable experience and the hospitality I enjoyed while in Rochester at your next meeting.

God Bless & 73's

George Harding, ZL3KD, VR2EL, VR1L, ZL2AON, ZL2AON/W2, VK6UZ, ZL2AIH, 3D2EL, ZK1KDA, VK3FMF, ZLOTC #1065

From: **George Harding ZL3KD**

Date: Nov 30, 2007 2:06 PM

Subject: Re: Seasons Greetings from ZL
To: Jim DiTucci

Hi Jim, and thanks for the reply. Please feel free to print as much or as little as you wish of my email as I hope it will show, especially to your

younger members, the international fellowship aspect of our hobby. My Elmer was an uncle, a WW2 submarine telegraphist who introduced me to Morse code at the age of 8 and 62 years later I still have my bug key at my side. He is now an SK but one day I may be able to thank him for giving me a lifelong interest and the basis for 51 years in the radio and data comms engineering profession. Congratulations on the longevity and membership achievement of RARA. I read much of the youth of today having it too easy with PC's, cell phones, WWW etc. and it is great to read that RARA is nurturing our wonderful hobby of which we are the guardians for future generations to enjoy despite the ever present predations of the commercials who eye our bands so jealously. I wonder if today's youth will ever experience the thrill of building their first Xtal set as sadly the nearest I have come to that was helping our oldest grandson with a school science project where the task was to light an LED from a lemon. We used strips of copper and galvanised nails as the dissimilar metals for the "battery" terminals and expanded the experiment to include oranges and grapefruit but had to series/parallel them all to get the power required which earned Lewis a "Commended" citation.

However sad to say that has been the extent of his electronics interest. You may wish to add that during my 25 years military service I always carried two items, my Amateur Radio licence and my Bible as without fail they both gave me instant connections to the local community in the way of surrogate families which made leaving my family behind easier to handle. I remember at our 25th wedding anniversary I calculated that I had spent a total of 5 years away from home so these sources of fellowship were very important to me. A severely "dicky ticker" restrains my travels now but my shack is my passport to the world so I lack for nothing as long as I can still rag chew with the OTC crew on the Sunday morning/evening net and the "good old boys on 40" CW.

Season's greetings to you and yours and Team RARA from me and mine and, as Bing Crosby once said; "Thanks for the Memory"

73's & God Bless

George ZL3KD

(Prez Sez continued on page 4)

PS: Is Perkins Cake 'n Steak still open?

NOTE: George,

Perkin's Cake & Steak survives today as Perkin's Restaurant & Bakery.

<http://www.perkinsrestaurants.com/history.html>

Drop George a note. I am sure he would be glad to hear from you. And don't forget to **Meet Your Friends at RaRa** on Friday, January 4, 2008.

Editors Note:

A copy of this issue of the RAG and some others are being sent to George to let him know we are still here and active.

Spring License Classes

By Brad Armstrong, W1YX
License Class Coordinator

Our next Amateur Radio Licensing classes will be held at the Greece Volunteer Ambulance's location at 867 Long Pond Road, just north of English Road (look for radio tower). Registration will be on Saturday, January 26th, 2008 and will be followed by our first class meeting on the same morning.

The session will consist of 7 weekly class meetings from 9 AM to Noon for the Technician and General class levels running through mid-March. Our regular club exam session on the third Saturday in March will follow along nicely after the end of the session. The Extra class level will meet for the first time at the same time and place, but will then move off to a one weeknight per week format at Harris RF Communications location on the East side of town. Additional information, including details of the very reasonable fees, are available on our website at:

www.rochesterham.org

**RaRa Memorial
Scholarship
Application Deadline
April 15, 2008**

RaRa Rag 20 Years Ago, January, 1988

By Ed Gable, K2MP
RARA Historian

Vice-President and Program Chairman Dave Bernheisel, N2DPF, only announced that the next meeting would be on January 8th, no details. John Schooley, K2NC, Chairman of the RaRa Volunteer Examiners, wrote with information on the 1988 amateur examination plans. John took this opportunity to recognize Len Cataldi, N2HS, Dick Critchell, KY2Y and Lou Kohnen, K2ANC for their regular participation on the VE Team. Effective January 1st, 1988, the VE fees went up to \$4.55. Ed Gable, K2MP, Chairman of the RaRa Code and Theory classes, reported on the just finished Fall courses. There, 24 new Novices and 15 new technicians were turned out. The instructors were Bob O'Connell, NF2Z, Ed Gable, K2MP, Joe Phillips, W2DHV and Bud Young, WA2UGE. At the end of the last session tradition was upheld with the instructors holding a small Christmas party for the students. Ed asked for additional instructors to volunteer as there are plans to expand the program to include more hands-on experience for the students. The FCC published amateur figures for the period ending December 1987, with the total of all classes being 430,201, up 2.2% from the figure the previous year.

Ed Holdsworth, N2EH, penned a long article chronicling the busy activities of the RaRa public service corps. Ed pointed out that this tenacious group, as dedicated as they are, still only represent 7% of the total RaRa membership and urges participation by more members.

Winter Fun Fest is coming, exclaimed John Lloyd, KA2KFV. This annual event, held at Mendons Pond Park, is sure to relieve your winter doldrums. The entry fee... a log for the fire place. Hard to beat. With regret it was reported that Joe Klusek, WB2FDZ and John Wolf, K1ESS were reported as silent keys.

TADA Communications, peddling *Antenna Specialist* and other products remained a long term advertiser. From the Want Ads you could buy a Commodore C-128 computer from Len Gessin, WA2ZNC, for \$400.00.

DIRECTORY DEADLINE

By Dick Goslee, KG2I
Editor, RaRa Directory

The deadline for updating the information in the "RaRa Directory" is fast approaching. Check the mailing label on this issue of the RaRa Rag and make sure your name, address and call sign are listed correctly. If there are any errors please let me know as soon as possible. Also if you have two addresses, one for summer and one for winter PLEASE make sure I have both of them. The directory will show both addresses so your friends will know how to reach you at all times.

Corrections and /or additions to the directory can be sent to me by mail at the following address:

Richard A. Goslee, KG2I
24 Elaine Drive
Rochester, NY 14623-5306

If it is more convenient you can e-mail me at:
rgoslee@rochester.rr.com

The deadline for all corrections is January 2, 2008. Happy New Year.

For Sale:

MFJ-1796 vertical antenna, 40M – 2M; never tuned for 6 or 2M. No radials required. Disassembled but complete, including manual. Was up three years and worked fine. Re-roofed the area it lived on so it won't be going back up. Will include tripod mount and 10 ft. pole. Retails for \$230. \$125 buys it. Mike, KC2TP, 244-3822.

Sidebands – Amateur Radio in the News

By Larry Wallnau, W2ZEY
RARA Media Coordinator

Website of the Month: The University of Texas Amateur Radio Club has a great RF exposure calculator at:

<http://n5xu.ece.utexas.edu/rfsafety/> or
<http://tinyurl.com/2qi6j5>.

Reports from the Beleaguered Northwest:

The coastal regions of Pacific Northwest have been hit with horrific storms with torrential rain and high winds. The results included flooding, mudslides, power outages, and loss of communications. Hams received much deserved credit in the media for their volunteer work in rescue and relief efforts. A sample of reports follows.

On Broadband Reports.com: December 6 the report noted that flooding in the affected areas cut off communications for T-Mobile customers. Combined with closed highways, overloaded communications circuits, and general chaos, Ham Radio operators were praised as heroes. Among other things, they relayed vital information that could not be done by the cripple 911 systems. Oregon Governor Ted Kulongoski said "One of the problems in this is always communication. I'm going to tell you who the heroes were from the very beginning of this...the ham radio operators. These people just came in and actually provided a tremendous communication link to us." See <http://tinyurl.com/yopetg>.

KPLU Report: The Seattle NPR affiliate KPLU has an MP3 link the audio of an interview in which Ham Radio operators are praised. [Go to <http://tinyurl.com/2z8acr>.] It noted that phone service was knocked out for two days. Mudslides and 100 mph winds knocked out cell towers. Coastal towns were literally cut off from the rest of the world. A police spokesman noted that their satellite phones were having trouble too. The other problem is public safety officers and rescuers are limited to a restricted number of channels which is insufficient in times of natural disasters. Over 50 hams were called to assist in providing communications coverage.

KATU-TV 2 News Online, Portland OR:

KATU reported the following "With communications down in much of the state smacked by the recent storm, state emergency officials are calling ham radio operators heroes. When even state police had difficulty reaching some of their own troops, ham radio worked, setting up networks so emergency officials could communicate and relaying lists of supplies needed in stricken areas."

(Sidebands continued on page 6)

Sidebands continued from page 5

The Oregonian: The newspaper reported on December 6 that Clatsop County on the Oregon coast got hit especially hard. The mayor of Astoria, Willis Van Dusen commented "This is Number 1. This was a monster." It was noted that 42 members of the Sunset Empire Amateur Radio Operators Club were assisting with communications because normal modes of communication were down. See <http://tinyurl.com/yv6o5z>.

Videos of Newcasts: There are some great videos of newcasts showing Hams Radio Operators assisting in the relief efforts. Your can find them at the ARRL sites:
<http://www.hello-radio.org/video/oregon.wmv>
[http://www.hello-](http://www.hello-radio.org/video/oregon2.wmv)
[radio.org/video/oregon2.wmv](http://www.hello-radio.org/video/oregon2.wmv)

[Larry's note: The following letter was written by a former Air Force officer upon the death of Brig. Gen. Paul Tibbets Jr., who is best known as the pilot of the *Enola Gay*, the B-29 Super Fortress that dropped the first atomic bomb on Hiroshima on August 6, 1945. World War II ended 9 days later when the Emperor of Japan publicly announced Japan's surrender to his citizens. I did not realize that General Tibbets was a Ham Radio enthusiast. Who would? He is known by the general public only for piloting the *Enola Gay* on that fateful day in the summer of 1945. He was a quiet and private man. I recall seeing only one interview with him, perhaps in the early 1960s, shown recently on the History Channel. General Tibbets made no political comments, he only recounted what he, his crew, and airplane experienced. Likewise, my inclusion of the letter is **not** a political statement in the least. If anything, it is personal. You see, like many of our senior members, my uncles and father were members of that "Greatest Generation" so eloquently described by Tom Brokaw – people that ensured the future for my generation. Some of my relatives were slated for reassignment to the Pacific Theater after VE Day, that is, until the war came to an abrupt halt. Here in its entirety is the letter].

A Tragedy Avoided a Catastrophe

Regarding the death of Brig. Gen. Paul Tibbets Jr., I worked for him for over a year on the B-47 jet bomber project. I later helped him set up his ham radio station in his home at MacDill Air Force Base. I found him to be a

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perfectionist – but also a quiet, competent and caring officer who knew war; he flew a B-17 combat tour and was wounded over Germany. He was the ideal officer for the momentous task of ending the war by dropping the first atomic bomb on Aug. 6, 1945. I hope Paul rests in peace.

Detractors do not consider that the invasion of Japan was already massing and would take place in less than three months. The first assault was to be Oct. 27 and a larger one on Kyushu on Nov. 1. Our own leaders expected a million or more U.S. casualties and tens of millions of Japanese in the fight to the death. Japan had 12,725 planes ready to be used as suicide bombs against our fleet.

The National Archives recently released the entire "Top Secret" official invasion documents from the U.S. and Japan. Go to any search engine and type in "Operation Downfall" and read the actual plans. The atomic bomb was a tragedy that avoided a catastrophe and the biggest blood bath in history. Even after the first bomb, the Japanese swore to fight to the last person for the emperor. The second bomb ended the war.

[signed] Clyde L. Mings

The writer is a retired chief master sergeant with the U.S. Air Force. He resides in Sarasota.
© *Herald Tribune* [Sarasota, FL].

February Rag Deadline
January 9, 2008

Jan. Calendar of Events

- 4 - RaRa General Meeting – 7:30 PM –
HFC#1, 3129 East Henrietta Rd.
- 9 – RARA BOD Meeting – 5:00PM - RIT
- 11 - RVHFG – 7:30 PM, monthly meeting at
Ogden Town Hall, 269 Ogden Center Rd.
- 15 - RDXA – 5:30PM, Dinner, 7:30 Meeting
NapaGino's Restaurant, 2200 Penfield Rd.
Rte 441 corner with 250
- 18 - RRRA – 8:00 PM, Regular Meeting
Pittsford Town Hall, downstairs room
- 19 - RaRa VE Testing session – 10:00AM
Bldg-9, Room-3139 RIT Campus.

Death, Taxes, Ham Radio

By Bill Kasperkoski, WB2SXY
Secretary, RARA

Estate planners need to know how you feel about ham radio in order to do their jobs properly. Reading this month's RARA Rag means that you are a member in good standing and that you are helping future hams by your dedication to the ham radio community. Your membership in this, and other fine amateur radio organizations, on the local and national levels, shows your interest in the many faces of experimentation, communication and operation that are not open to other groups.

Tell your family and estate planners about your dedication to ham radio. Even though this year's hamfest and auction are over, planning efforts continue throughout the calendar. The educational, scholarship, public service, training, testing, and scouting functions, just to name the outward work, continue year round in providing what RARA management thinks are the best possible member benefits.

I am always amazed by the generosity of the membership toward the ham radio community, especially in generating opportunities for new and inbound hams. Through the generosity of many, RARA offers scholarships, highly discounted estate equipment, youth training and interesting monthly program topics. Your elected Board of Directors continually discuss ways to improve member benefits and reduce costs. Your gifts to RARA - a 501(c)3 - can provide you and your estate with tax benefits in addition to a final generous commitment to ham radio's future.

Scholarship is now \$1000

By Dick Goslee, KG2I
Treasurer, RARA

The Board of Directors is pleased to announce that the value of the Memorial Scholarship has been increased to \$1000 for 2008. This is the second increase in value since the first scholarship was started in 2001.

The deadline for submitting applications for the 8th annual RaRa Memorial Scholarship is April 15, 2008. The "Rochester Amateur Radio Association Memorial Scholarship" has been

established with generous donations made in memory of A. Leland Zwack, W2WPF, William Buchan, W2OMV, William Resch, K4VOS and David Stewart, K2ZCD. The scholarship is available to any licensed Amateur Radio operator who is or will be pursuing any degree of Associate level or higher in any accredited school beyond high school. The individual must be a member of RaRa and a resident of New York State. The scholarship is for one individual for one year, but the recipient may reapply for subsequent years.

Applications for the scholarship may be obtained at RaRa general meetings, by mail at P.O. Box 93333, Rochester, NY 14692-8333 or by calling the RaRa phone at (585) 671-2424. Additional information and a copy of the application are available on the Rochester Amateur Radio Association web site at <http://www.rochesterham.org/> or from one of the officers.

Additional "tax exempt donations" in memory of W2WPF, W2OMV, K4VOS, K2ZCD or any other silent key may be sent to: Rochester Amateur Radio Association, Inc., Memorial Scholarship, P.O. Box 93333, Rochester, NY 14692-8333.

Radio Club Contacts

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Rochester DX Association (RDXA)

www.rdxa.com

Rochester Radio Repeater Association (RRRA)

Max Kessler, N2MXD

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Rochester VHF Group (RVHFG)

Andy Flowers, K0SM

aflowers@frontiernet.net

XEROX Amateur Radio Club (XARC)

Ned Asam, W2NED

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Drumlins Amateur Radio Club Ltd. (DARC)

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president@drumlinsarc.com

Monroe County ARES

Jeff Wigal, WY7Q

wy7q@arrl.net

THANK YOU, THANK YOU

By Dick Goslee, KG2I
Treasurer, RARA

We would like to take this opportunity to thank the following members for their recent donations to RARA while they were paying their dues for 2008. Donations were received from:

Frank Lisuzzo, William Rapp, Richard Leahy, Roland St. Louis, Klaus Gueldenpfennig, Stephen Beaulieu, Richard Schott, John Randall, Frank Schramm, David Barney, Kenneth Hall, Kevin McCoy, David Crawford, Musselman Triathlon, Richard Vuillequez, Steven Verzulli, David Selbert, Jack Tripp, Robert Klink, Robert Knox, Glenn Roat, Robert Spriegel, Donald Aldred, Lia Zwack, J. Milt Levis, Michael Doolin, Peter Campbell, William Herzog, Don Barrett, James Cochrane, M. John Hinckel, William Kelly, Jr., Christopher McNally, David Shuey, Jeanne Crone, Larry Brassie, Michel Vesco, Charles Vorndran, William Fine, Jonathan Arney, Joseph Murano, Roy Wildermuth, Eric Melenbacker, Charlie Escriva, John Micsak, George Abbott, David Mancuso, Fred Lupi and David Selbert (second donation). Also we would like to thank the many members that donated items to RARA for the auction.

If anyone else would like to make a "TAX DEDUCTABLE" donation to RARA, The Memorial Scholarship Fund, The Educational Fund/ Radio Coaches Program just check the appropriate box on your membership renewal and indicate the amount you are sending. If you have already paid your 2008 dues and would now like to make a donation you can send it to: RARA, P.O. Box 93333, Rochester, NY 14692-8333.

Again many thanks, RARA appreciates your continued support.

W1AW 2007/2008 Winter Operating Schedule

Morning Schedule:
Time Mode Days

1400 UTC (9 AM EST) CWs Wed, Fri
1400 UTC (9 AM EST) CWf Tue, Thu

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Daily Visitor Operating Hours:

1500 UTC to 1700 UTC - (10 AM to 12 PM EST)

1800 UTC to 2045 UTC - (1 PM to 3:45 PM EST)

(Station closed 1700 to 1800 UTC (12 PM to 1 PM EST))

Afternoon/Evening Schedule:

2100 UTC (4 PM EST) CWf Mon, Wed, Fri

2100 " " CWs Tue, Thu

2200 " (5 PM EST) CWb Daily

2300 " (6 PM EST) RTTY Daily

0000 " (7 PM EST) CWs Mon, Wed, Fri

0000 " " CWf Tue, Thu

0100 " (8 PM EST) CWb Daily

0200 " (9 PM EST) RTTY Daily

0245 " (9:45 PM EST) VOICE Daily

0300 " (10 PM EST) CWf Mon, Wed, Fri

0300 " " CWs Tue, Thu

0400 " (11 PM EST) CWb Daily

Frequencies (MHz)

CW: 1.8175 3.5815 7.0475 14.0475 18.0975

21.0675 28.0675 147.555

RTTY: - 3.5975 7.095 14.095 18.1025 21.095

28.095 147.555

VOICE: 1.855 3.990 7.290 14.290 18.160

21.390 28.590 147.555

RaRa Amateur Radio License Testing

**All Elements needed
to complete a license class.**

**3rd Saturday of each
Month, September – April**

**Registration – 10:00AM
Testing – 10:15AM**

**Room 3139, Building 9
(Park in Lot J)
Rochester Institute of Technology
1 Lomb Memorial Drive
Rochester, NY 14623**

**Contact Raj Dewan, N2RD
to reserve space.**

**Call (585) 703-4003 or e-mail
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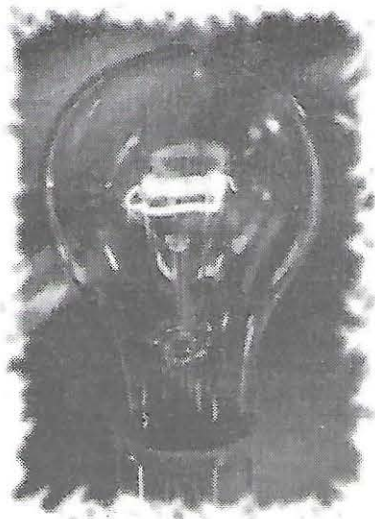
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